

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1546

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish the Committee on Care of Veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 17, 2009

Mr. MCNERNEY (for himself and Mr. BOOZMAN) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish the Committee on Care of Veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Caring for Veterans
5 with Traumatic Brain Injury Act of 2009”.

6 **SEC. 2. COMMITTEE ON CARE OF VETERANS WITH TRAU-**
7 **MATIC BRAIN INJURY.**

8 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEE.—Subchapter
9 II of chapter 73 of title 38, United States Code, is amend-

1 ed by inserting after section 7321 the following new sec-
2 tion:

3 **“§ 7321A. Committee on Care of Veterans with Trau-**
4 **matic Brain Injury**

5 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall estab-
6 lish in the Veterans Health Administration a committee
7 to be known as the ‘Committee on Care of Veterans with
8 Traumatic Brain Injury’. The Under Secretary for Health
9 shall appoint employees of the Department with expertise
10 in the care of veterans with traumatic brain injury to serve
11 on the committee.

12 “(b) RESPONSIBILITIES OF COMMITTEE.—The com-
13 mittee shall assess, and carry out a continuing assessment
14 of, the capability of the Veterans Health Administration
15 to meet effectively the treatment and rehabilitation needs
16 of veterans with traumatic brain injury. In carrying out
17 that responsibility, the committee shall—

18 “(1) evaluate the care provided to such veterans
19 through the Veterans Health Administration;

20 “(2) identify systemwide problems in caring for
21 such veterans in facilities of the Veterans Health
22 Administration;

23 “(3) identify specific facilities within the Vet-
24 erans Health Administration at which program en-

1 richment is needed to improve treatment and reha-
2 bilitation of such veterans; and

3 “(4) identify model programs which the com-
4 mittee considers to have been successful in the treat-
5 ment and rehabilitation of such veterans and which
6 should be implemented more widely in or through fa-
7 cilities of the Veterans Health Administration.

8 “(c) ADVICE AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—The com-
9 mittee shall—

10 “(1) advise the Under Secretary regarding the
11 development of policies for the care and rehabilita-
12 tion of veterans with traumatic brain injury; and

13 “(2) make recommendations to the Under Sec-
14 retary—

15 “(A) for improving programs of care of
16 such veterans at specific facilities and through-
17 out the Veterans Health Administration;

18 “(B) for establishing special programs of
19 education and training relevant to the care of
20 such veterans for employees of the Veterans
21 Health Administration;

22 “(C) regarding research needs and prior-
23 ities relevant to the care of such veterans; and

24 “(D) regarding the appropriate allocation
25 of resources for all such activities.

1 “(d) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than June 1 of
2 2010, and each subsequent year, the Secretary shall sub-
3 mit to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate
4 and House of Representatives a report on the implementa-
5 tion of this section. Each such report shall include the fol-
6 lowing for the calendar year preceding the year in which
7 the report is submitted:

8 “(1) A list of the members of the committee.

9 “(2) The assessment of the Under Secretary for
10 Health, after review of the initial findings of the
11 committee, regarding the capability of the Veterans
12 Health Administration, on a systemwide and facility-
13 by-facility basis, to meet effectively the treatment
14 and rehabilitation needs of veterans with traumatic
15 brain injury.

16 “(3) The plans of the committee for further as-
17 sessments.

18 “(4) The findings and recommendations made
19 by the committee to the Under Secretary for Health
20 and the views of the Under Secretary on such find-
21 ings and recommendations.

22 “(5) A description of the steps taken, plans
23 made (and a timetable for the execution of such
24 plans), and resources to be applied toward improving
25 the capability of the Veterans Health Administration

1 to meet effectively the treatment and rehabilitation
2 needs of veterans with traumatic brain injury.”.

3 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
4 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting
5 after the item relating to section 7321 the following new
6 item:

“7321A. Committee on Care of Veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury.”.

